



BRISSON
TIMMS
LOKUS

BATMAN INCORPORATED



AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

THE FINAL WAR AGAINST DEATHSTROKE'S DARK ARMY
—AND THE DAWN OF WHAT'S NEXT!

DARK CRISIS

ON
INFINITE EARTHS

#7

Written by
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

Art by
DANIEL SAMPERE

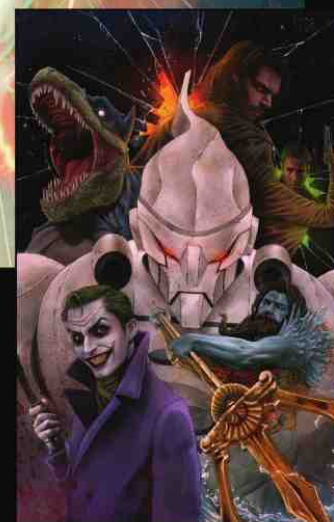


DC'S BLOCKBUSTER EVENT CONCLUDES IN DECEMBER!



Dark Crisis: War Zone #1
cover by Rafael Sarmiento

- ☐ **DARK CRISIS: WAR ZONE #1**
- ☐ **DARK CRISIS: BIG BANG #1**
- ☐ **DARK CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS #7**



Dark Crisis: Big Bang #1
variant cover by Ariel Colón

SHANGHAI,
CHINA.



«DR. LEONARD
WU! GET YOUR ASS
DOWN HERE!»

«GHOST-MAKER...IT'S...IT'S
THREE IN THE MORNING.
WHAT THE HELL DO
YOU THINK--»

«THIS IS
SKYSPIDER.»

«SHE'S GOT
THIRD-DEGREE
BURNS, A CONCUSSION,
AND MORE THAN LIKELY
IS SUFFERING
FROM INTERNAL
INJURIES.»

«...I DON'T HAVE
THE TOOLS HERE
TO DEAL WITH THIS.
I'LL NEED TO BRING
HER TO THE
HOSPITAL IN
ORDER TO--»

«NO.»

«THE
HOSPITAL IS
TOO DANGEROUS.
SHE'D BE EXPOSED
AND AS GOOD
AS DEAD.»

«FIX
HER.»

«IF SHE DOESN'T
PULL THROUGH,
YOU'RE AS GOOD
AS DEAD.»

«UNDERSTOOD?»

«GHOST-
MAKER?»

*TRANSLATED FROM
SHANGHAISE.





IF YOU STILL THINK I'M FULL OF **** WHEN I'M DONE TELLING YOU WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU, I'LL DROP YOU OFF WHEREVER YOU WANT.

THIS VAN IS BUILT LIKE A FARADAY CAGE. GHOST-MAKER'S TRACKER--I'M ASSUMING HE STILL PUTS TRACKERS ON EVERYONE--CAN'T SEND A SIGNAL FROM INSIDE.

BUT AS SOON AS I DROP YOU OFF, HE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND YOU AND YOU CAN GO BACK TO HIM, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.



NO MORE TEACHERS

PART 3

"...A COUPLE OF
SMALL-TIME WANNABE
SUPER-VILLAINS WHO WENT
BY THE CODENAMES..."

ED BRISSON WRITER
JOHN TIMMS ARTIST & COVER
REX LOKUS COLORIST
CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER

INHYUK LEE VARIANT COVER
LUDO LULLABI 1:25 VARIANT COVER
HAINING 1:50 VARIANT COVER
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR

I'M
MR. MENACE...

"MY DAD NEVER WANTED FOR
ANYTHING. HE CAME FROM
OLD MONEY, AN ONLY CHILD
WHO INHERITED HIS PARENTS'
FORTUNE WHEN THEY PASSED."

...AND THIS
GORGEOUS, TALL
DRINK OF POISON
COMING AROUND TO
UNBURDEN YOU OF YOUR
PERSONAL EFFECTS IS
MY LOVELY WIFE,
MRS. MENACE.

PLEASE BE
SO KIND AS TO HAND
OVER YOUR JEWELRY,
WALLETS, WATCHES, MONEY,
PURSES, AND ANYTHING
ELSE OF VALUE, EITHER
MONETARY OR
SENTIMENTAL.

"THEY DID IT FOR THE *THRILL*. THEY
LOVED TERRORIZING THE RICH,
DESPITE BEING OBSCENELY RICH
THEMSELVES. THEY FELT THAT A LITTLE
BIT OF SUFFERING WAS GOOD FOR
THOSE WHO SELDOM DID."



THIS WATCH
HAS BEEN IN MY
FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS,
AND I WILL BE DAMNED IF
I HAND IT OVER TO A
COUPLE OF STREET
THUGS.



DON'T YOU
DARE LAY A HAND
ON MY WIFE!



ARE
YOU OKAY, MY
LOVE?

YOU
WARNED THEM. YOU
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN
CLEARER.

WHAT DO
YOU PROPOSE
WE DO?

WE PUNISH
THEM! EVERY
LAST ONE OF
THEM!



NO...



...THE ONLY
PEOPLE BEING
PUNISHED HERE
TODAY ARE...



...THE
TWO...

SHK



...OF...



...YOU.

SHUNK



OSLO,
SWEDEN.

«HERE
WE ARE.»

"THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP IN THE
FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, LIKE SO
MANY SIDEKICKS BEFORE ME."

"TRANSLATED FROM SWEDISH."

«[REDACTED]
THIS IS--»

«KASPER
NORDLUND. BUT
YOU MAY CALL ME
FATHER.»

«PLEASD TO
MEET YOU, [REDACTED]»

«MR. NORDLUND HAS AGREED
TO ADOPT YOU.»

«ISN'T THAT
LOVELY?»

"THAT WASN'T HIS
NAME. IT WASN'T HIS
FACE THAT I SAW
THAT DAY, EITHER."

"EVEN THOUGH I LIVED
WITH HIM AS A SON FOR
YEARS, HE WOULD NEVER
LET ME KNOW WHO HE
REALLY WAS."

"I NEVER LEARNED HIS REAL
NAME NOR SAW HIS REAL FACE."



"NOT THAT I SAW HIM OFTEN."

"HE WOULD IMPORT TUTORS AND TEACHERS. USED THOSE WHO TAUGHT HIM TO TEACH ME."



"FROM SUNUP TO SUNDOWN, I WOULD TRAIN."

"THIS WAS AROUND THE TIME THAT ROBIN--THE **SECOND** ROBIN--HAD DIED AT THE HANDS OF THE JOKER."

"GHOST-MAKER COULDN'T PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE UPON BATMAN'S FAILURES. HE SOUGHT TO BUILD ME INTO A **BETTER** ROBIN."



"THOSE TIMES THAT I DID SEE GHOST-MAKER, HE WAS DISTANT. I THOUGHT MAYBE HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BE A FATHER."

"AS TIME WENT ON, I REALIZED THAT HE JUST DIDN'T **CARE** TO BE."



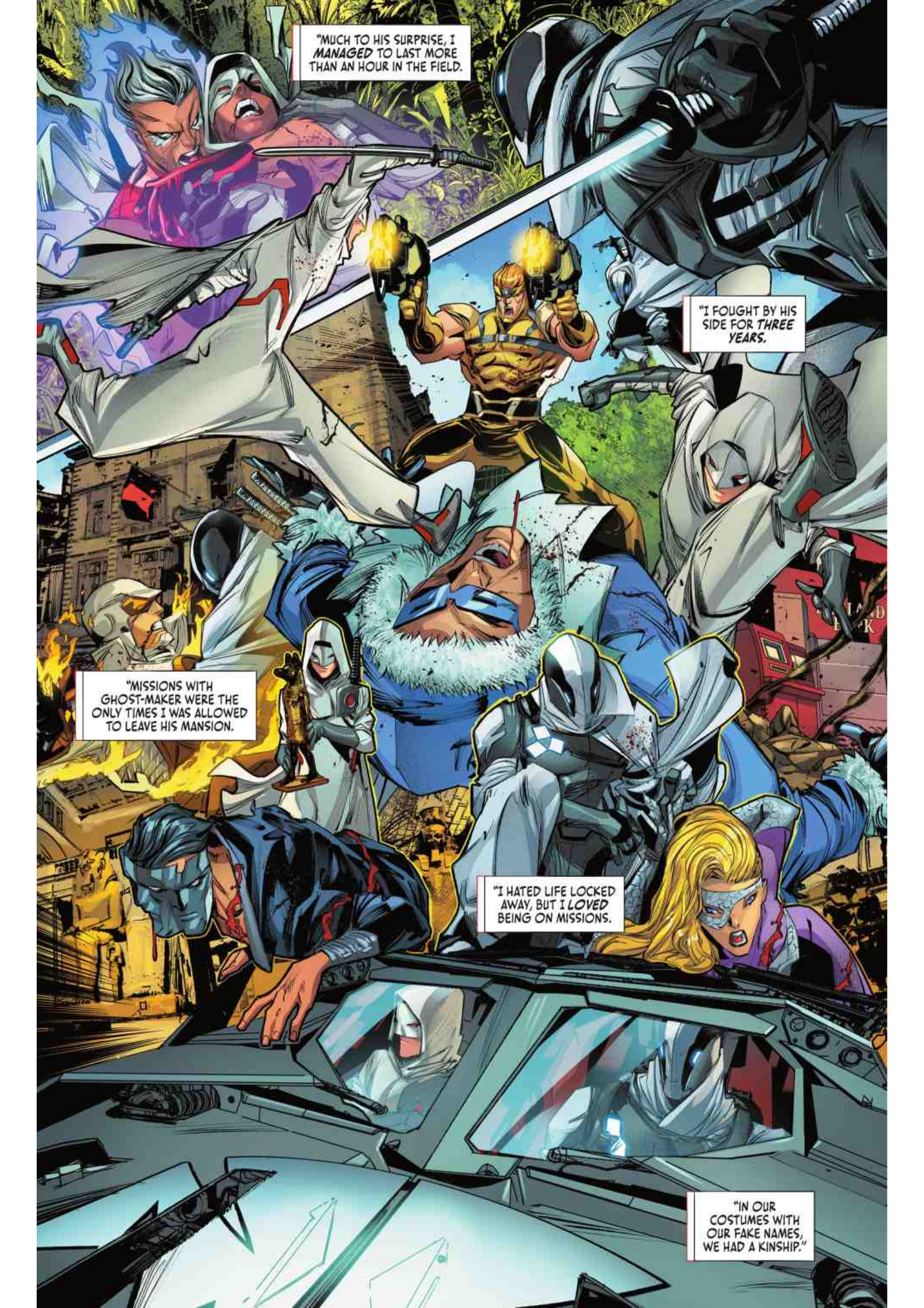
"FOR TWO YEARS, I WAS HIDDEN AWAY IN HIS MANSION. TRAINING."

"GHOST-MAKER HONING ME INTO A KILLING MACHINE. INTO THE PERFECT SIDEKICK. HIS **BETTER-ROBIN**."



"THOUGH HE NEVER SEEMED TO HAVE MUCH FAITH IN MY ABILITIES OR PROGRESS."

"YOU WOULDN'T LAST MORE THAN AN HOUR IN THE FIELD, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]"



"MUCH TO HIS SURPRISE, I
MANAGED TO LAST MORE
THAN AN HOUR IN THE FIELD.

"I FOUGHT BY HIS
SIDE FOR THREE
YEARS.

"MISSIONS WITH
GHOST-MAKER WERE THE
ONLY TIMES I WAS ALLOWED
TO LEAVE HIS MANSION.

"I HATED LIFE LOCKED
AWAY, BUT I LOVED
BEING ON MISSIONS.

"IN OUR
COSTUMES WITH
OUR FAKE NAMES,
WE HAD A KINSHIP."



"BUT, I HAD MADE THE MISTAKE OF BELIEVING THAT GHOST-MAKER NEEDED ME. THAT I WAS AN *INTEGRAL* PART OF HIS OPERATION.

"LOOKING BACK, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLEAR HOW MUCH HE *HATED* SHARING THE SPOTLIGHT AND THE CREDIT.



"PLUS, I WAS STILL LEARNING, WHICH MADE GHOST-MAKER FEEL AS THOUGH I WAS SLOWING HIM DOWN--SOMETHING HE NEVER NEGLECTED TO REMIND ME OF.



"I NEEDED TO SHOW HIM THAT I COULD HANDLE MYSELF."

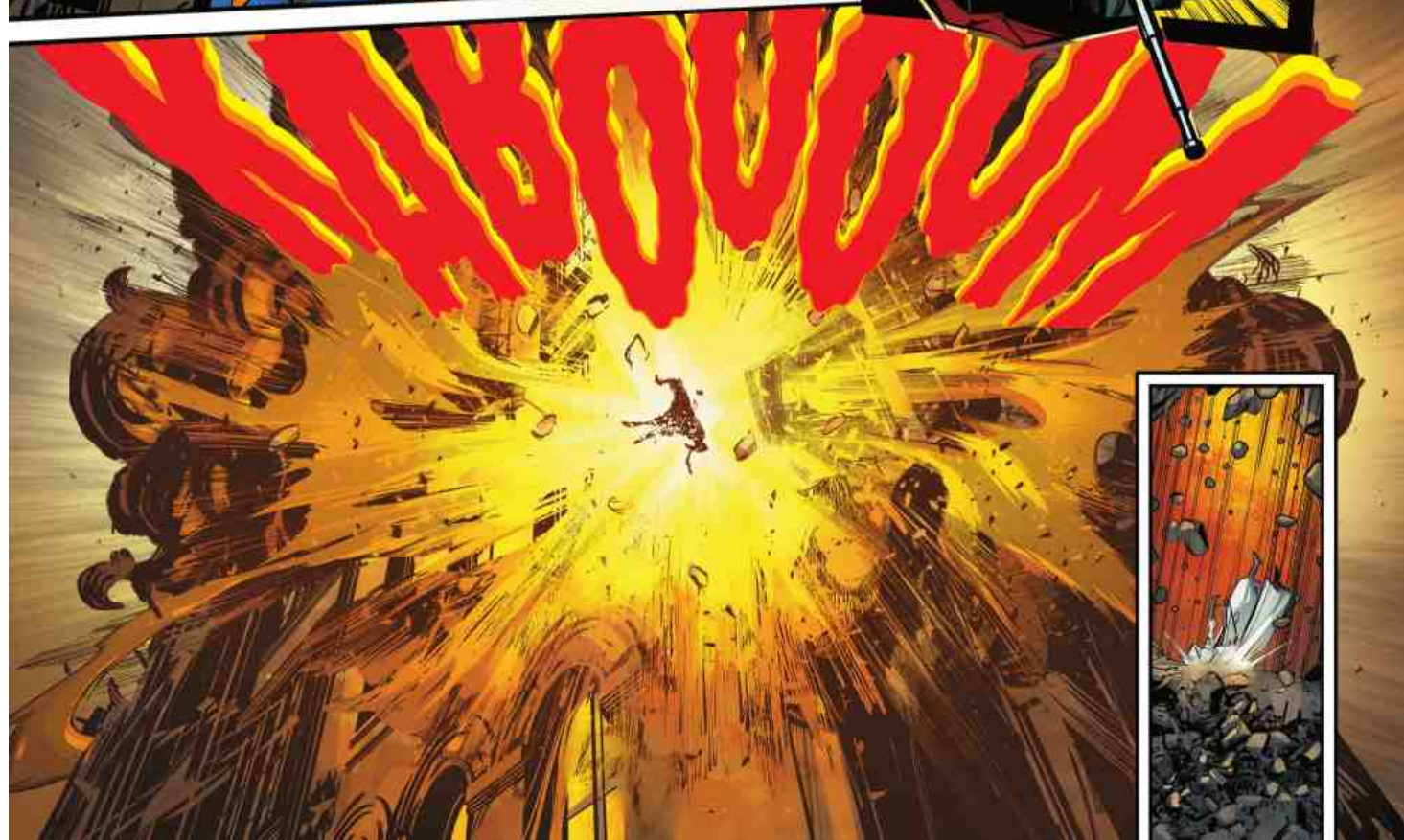


"WE WERE FACING PALLADIUM,
ONE OF GHOST-MAKER'S
MORE FREQUENT ADVERSARIES.

"HE'D USED HIS GOONS
AS FODDER, KEEPING US
DISTRACTED SO THAT HE
COULD MAKE HIS ESCAPE.

"I SAW AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO TAKE HIM...

"...SO I
TOOK IT."







AFTERWARD...
THERE WAS NO FUNERAL.
NO...NO NOTHING.

HE CONTINUED
ON AS THOUGH I HAD
NEVER EXISTED.



AND I BELIEVE IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME BEFORE
HE DOES THE SAME
TO YOU.

for a guy
who apparently
died, you seem
pretty alive
to me.



I WAS GIVEN
A **SECOND**
CHANCE.

BUT
GHOST-MAKER
DOESN'T KNOW
THAT. HE THINKS
THAT I'M
DEAD.

SINCE RETURNING, I'VE BEEN COMPILING
DATA ON GHOST-MAKER. FOLLOWING
HIS MOVEMENTS.

HE ALWAYS
TAUGHT ME THAT THE
ENEMY NEEDED TO BE MET WITH
EQUAL FORCE. KILLERS NEED TO BE
KILLED. OTHERWISE, THEY'LL
KILL AGAIN.

KILLERS LIKE
THE JOKER, EVEN
THOUGH HE KILLED
YOUR PARENTS.



YET, GHOST-MAKER
SEEMS TO MAKE
EXCEPTIONS FOR
THOSE WHO MADE
HIM INTO WHAT
HE IS.



GHOST-MAKER'S
TEACHERS...

TOMMY
TIVANE.

DON
MIGUEL.

FRANK
OATES.

AVERY
OBLONSKY.

TAKASHI
NAKATA.

DR.
SHANNON
LENTZ.

TO
NAME JUST A
FEW.



COLLECTIVELY,
THEY HAVE A BODY COUNT
IN EXCESS OF FIFTEEN
THOUSAND.



ANY ONE
OF THEM IS JUST
AS BAD AS THE
JOKER.

"AND YET
GHOST-MAKER
WANTS THEM
PROTECTED."

HEDLEY,
BRITISH
COLUMBIA,
CANADA.

I DID
NOT COME HERE
TO FIGHT WITH
YOU.

COULDA
FOOLED
ME.

THWAR

LISTEN
TO ME...

CENTRA; SURINAME
NATURE RESERVE.

...GHOST-MAKER HAS
SENT YOU TO PROTECT
MURDERERS.

FRANK OATES
IS DEAD. YOU KILLED
HIM.

YOU'RE THE
ONLY MURDERER
I SEE HERE.

UNLIKE FRANK
OATES, I HAVE NOT
SPILLED INNOCENT
BLOOD.

KILLING IS
KILLING. YOU DO NOT
GET TO DECIDE WHO IS
DESERVING AND WHO IS NOT.

ON THAT,
WE DISAGREE, GRAY
WOLF.

WHEN LEX LUTHOR CAME TO ZANDIA AND CHOSE
ME TO BECOME *HOLLOW*, THE CHAMPION OF
OUR CITY, IT WAS BECAUSE THE PLACE WHERE
I LIVED WAS RIDDLED WITH THOSE WHO'D
SLAUGHTERED THEIR WAY INTO POWER.

AND THEN SLAUGHTERED
EVEN MORE TO MAINTAIN
THAT POWER.

EVEN WHEN
CAUGHT, WHEN PUT
IN PRISON, THEY STILL
WIELDED THEIR INFLUENCE
AND HAD OTHERS KILL
FOR THEM.

BUT BY
TAKING THEM
OUT, COUNTLESS LIVES
COULD BE SAVED.

YEAH,
WELL...

AND FRANK OATES
HADN'T KILLED ANYONE
IN YEARS.

HE'D
REFORMED.

...WE'RE
NOT IN
ZANDIA.

YOU DON'T NEED TO
MURDER SOMEONE TO
STOP THEM FROM
KILLING.

THERE ARE
ALWAYS OTHER
WAYS.



MOSCOW,
RUSSIA.

LIES. I'VE
NEVER KILLED
ANYONE.

I HAVEN'T
THE TASTE FOR
IT.

AND YET,
YOU ARE HAPPY
TO SELL STOLEN
SECRETS TO
THE HIGHEST
BIDDER.

FOR
EXAMPLE...

...WHEN YOU SOLD BHUTRAN'S
DEFENSE CODES AND OPENED
US UP TO ATTACK FROM
TEHRAN FORCES...

...DOZENS OF
MEN, WOMEN, AND
CHILDREN WERE
KILLED.

INCLUDING MY
HUSBAND, SON, AND
DAUGHTER.

I'M SORRY,
OBVIOUSLY, FOR
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR
FAMILY. BUT I CANNOT BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT
IS DONE WITH THE
INFORMATION THAT
I PROVIDE.

I DON'T
KNOW, AVERY, SHE...
UH...WHAT'S HER
NAME?

I AM
CALLED THE FALLEN.
A REMINDER OF THOSE
WHO I FIGHT
FOR.

THE FALLEN
HAS A GOOD
POINT.

YOUR HANDS
ARE JUST AS DIRTY AS
THOSE WHO KILLED
HER FAMILY.

PERHAPS IT'S
BETTER THAT WE
TURN YOU OVER TO THE
AUTHORITIES. LET THEM
DECIDE YOUR FATE.



DUBLIN,
IRELAND.

MAYBE
WE SHOULD CALL
BATMAN?



DO YOU
THINK THAT'S THE BEST
PLAY HERE?

HE PUT
GHOST-MAKER IN CHARGE,
SO HE HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW
IF GHOST-MAKER IS KILLING
PEOPLE. IT'S A DIRECT VIOLATION
OF THE GOLDEN RULE
OF BATMAN INC.

TRUE.



BUT CAN YOU LOT NOT
HANDLE THIS ON
YOUR OWN?

I KNOW THE
MAN'S NAME IS ON
THE MARQUEE AND ALL,
BUT YOU DON'T NEED
TO RUN TO HIM EVERY
TIME THERE'S A
PROBLEM.



GATHER THE OTHERS.
CONFRONT
GHOST-MAKER.



PROVE TO BATMAN,
PROVE TO THE WORLD, THAT
YOU ARE CAPABLE.

SHANGHAI.

ICON.

YES,
GHOST-
MAKER.

HAVE YOU
GOT A LOCATION
ON CLOWNHUNTER'S
TRACKING BEACON?

NEGATIVE.

SIGNAL WAS
LOST FOUR
HOURS AGO.

GIVE
ME THE LAST
LOCATION.

LAST LOCATION IS 126
METERS TO THE SOUTH-
WEST, IN FRONT OF 2583
INNER RING ROAD.

PULL UP
ANY CCTV FOOTAGE
OF THE AREA AT THE
TIME OF THE LAST
CONTACT.

ON IT.

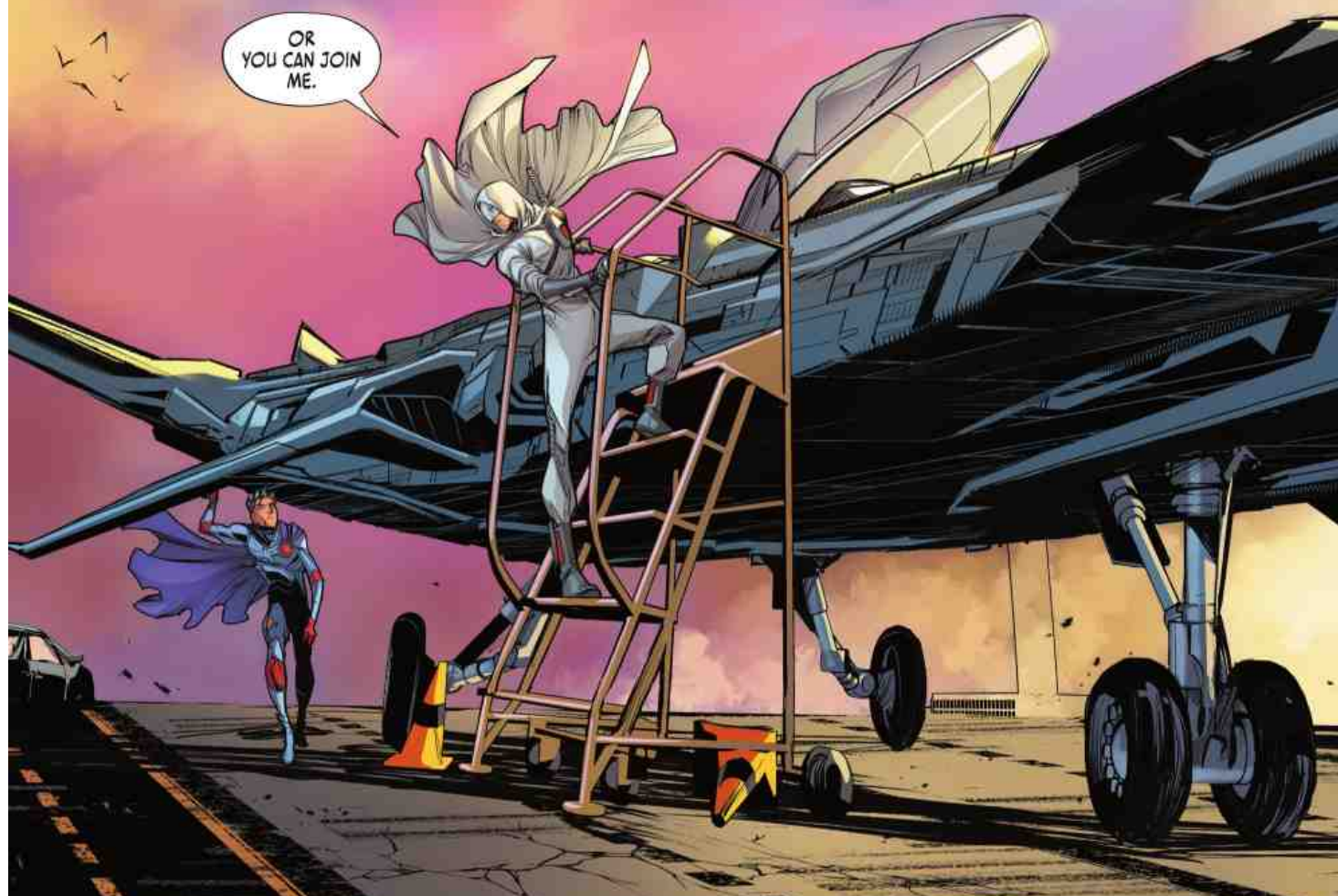
HERE IS THE ONLY
FOOTAGE I WAS
ABLE TO FIND.

ICON, CAN YOU GET
ME A BETTER-QUALITY
STREAM OF--

ICON...GET ME THE LOCATIONS
OF THE REST OF BATMAN
INCORPORATED.

NOW!

CUTE.
SOMEONE'S
PLAYING GAMES.



CARLOS PACHECO

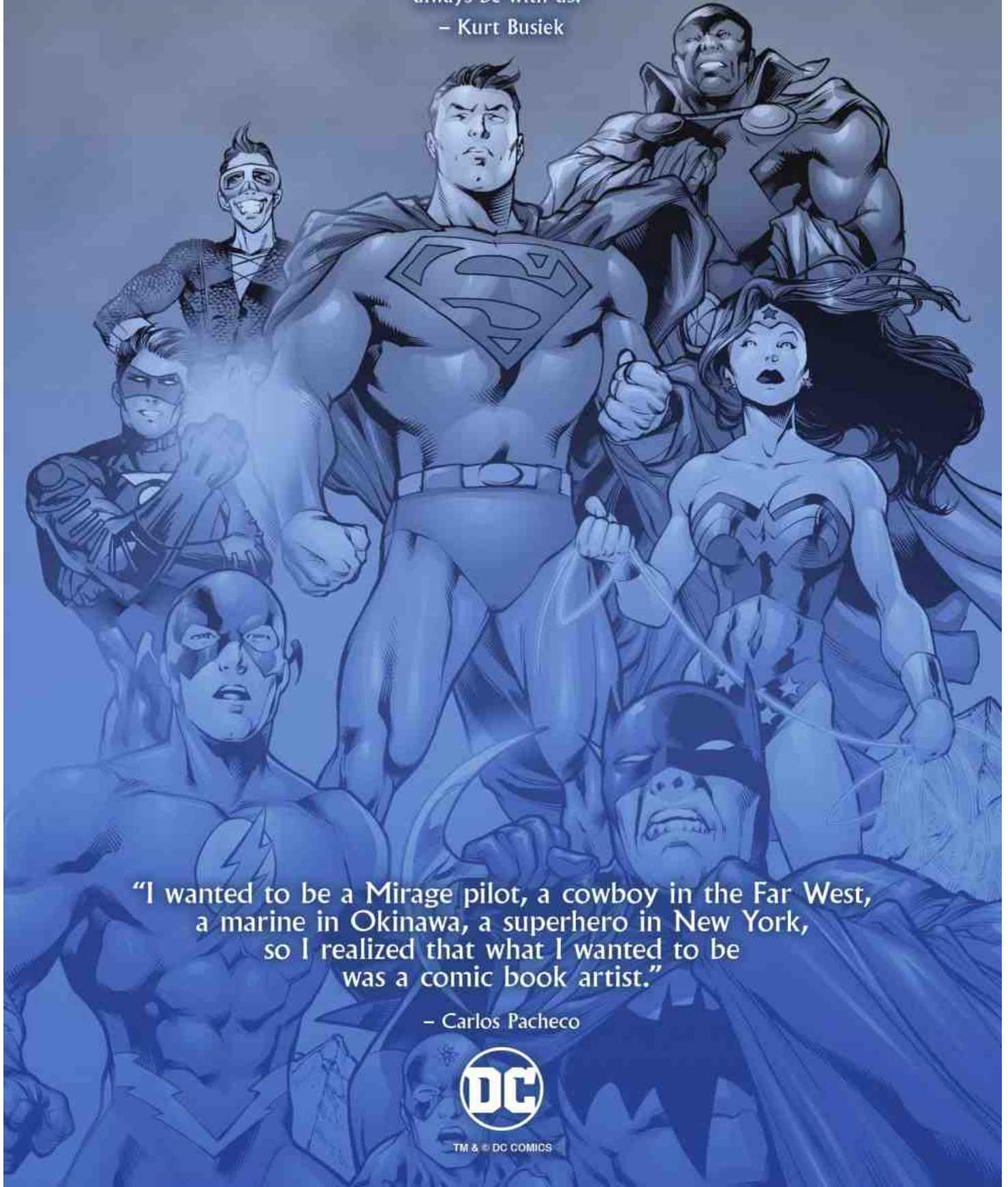
1961-2022

"To say that Carlos was a giant among giants is an understatement. He affected so many artists in so many ways, including myself, that his influence will be seen for a very long time to come. Not only as an artist but as a person, I had the opportunity of being close with him for years. He will be greatly missed."

– Jesús Merino

"Carlos's great strength wasn't just his majestic artwork, his elegant storytelling—it was that he made you believe. He knew the characters he drew inside out, like they were family, and that came through in every panel he drew. He was a creative partner without peer, and an even better friend. The world is an emptier place without him, but the worlds he brought to life will always be with us."

– Kurt Busiek



"I wanted to be a Mirage pilot, a cowboy in the Far West, a marine in Okinawa, a superhero in New York, so I realized that what I wanted to be was a comic book artist."

– Carlos Pacheco



TM & © DC COMICS



Who decides
our worth?

BATMAN
ONE BAD DAY
CATWOMAN #1
G. WILLOW WILSON
JAMIE McKELVIE



The fifth of eight 64-page Prestige format specials starring
the Dark Knight's worst enemies in their best stories yet.

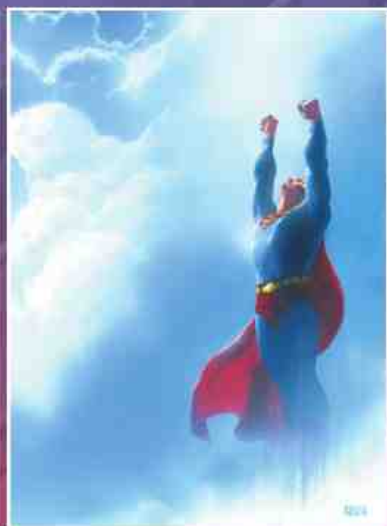
December

SUPERMAN **ACTION** **COMICS** **#1050**

OVERSIZED ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

The most historic series in superhero comic books hits a major milestone this December with *Action Comics* #1050! This oversized anniversary issue is both the culmination of two years' worth of Superman stories and the beginning of a brand-new era—and with Kal-El back on Earth, Lex Luthor is poised to deliver his most personal attack yet.

The issue—featuring the all-star creative team of writers Phillip Kennedy Johnson, Tom Taylor, and Joshua Williamson plus artists Mike Perkins, Clayton Henry, and Nick Dragotta—will launch the Man of Steel and his extended family into a very exciting 2023. To properly celebrate, *Action Comics* #1050 arrives with a host of more than 25 stunning variant covers. Here's just a sample of what to look for at your local comics shop.



Action Comics #1050 main cover
by Steve Beach



Action Comics #1050 variant cover
by Lee Weeks



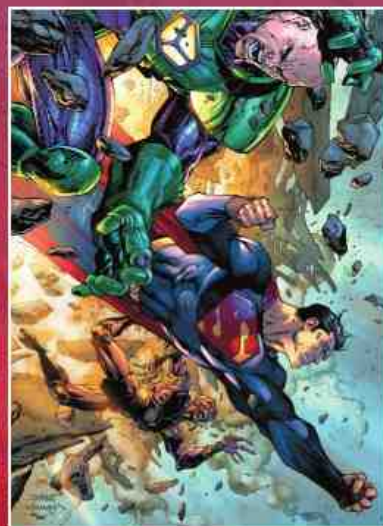
Action Comics #1050 variant cover
by Steve Lieber



Action Comics #1050 variant cover
by Mike Perkins



Action Comics #1050 1:100 variant cover
by Steve Rude



Action Comics #1050 variant cover
by Jim Lee

DON'T MISS ACTION COMICS #1050 (AND ALL 25+ COVERS) ON SALE IN DECEMBER!

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics ANNE DePIES Senior VP - General Manager JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer DON FALLETTI VP - Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management LAWRENCE GANEM VP - Talent Services ALISON GILL Senior VP - Manufacturing & Operations JEFFREY KAUFMAN VP - Editorial Strategy & Programming NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP - Manufacturing Administration & Design NANCY SPEARS VP - Revenue

BATMAN INCORPORATED 3, February 2023. Published monthly by DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522. GST # R125821072. Copyright © 2022 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dc.com/ratings.

The Last Kryptonian-DCP

